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| 09/856,787 | 05/25/2001 | Bernd Walther | VMP-490-A | 3330 |
| 7590 | 02/12/2003 | | | |
| Andrew R Basile Young & Basile 3001 West Big Beaver Road Suite 624 Troy, MI 48084 | | | EXAMINER ADDISON, KAREN B | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2834 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | DATE MAILED: 02/12/2003 | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/856,787

Applicant(s)

WALTHER, BERND

Examiner

Karen B Addison

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extension of time for reply is available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/18/02.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 16-20 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2-7,9-15 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the international Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-7 and 9-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
2. Claims 16-20 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: prior art fails to show a roller bearing mechanism operably connected to the second end portion of the shaft, the roller bearing mechanism having a rotatable inner race operably connected to the shaft, on one side of the shaft side, and an outer stationary race, and a plurality of ball bearings positioned between the inner and outer races; and an axial thrust generating device having a tapered sliding member supported for movement in a radial direction relative to the shaft and supported at an opposite end of the shaft from the support bearing so that axial force can be applied to the shaft through the roller bearing mechanism in the direction of the support bearing by moving the tapered sliding member radially.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 and 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cagnon (35492180).

Cagnon discloses in fig. 1-3 a drive device for a windshield wiper comprising: a housing (28), an electric motor (10) located in the housing with a rotating armature (11), a shaft having a first end and a second end portion; a gear unit located in the housing with a worm (26) located on the intermediate portion of the armature shaft, a support bearing supporting one end of the shaft and an axial thrust generating device (b) to compensate for the axial free play of the armature (11); characterized in that one end(C) of the armature is supported at the housing through a support bearing (23); wherein, the axial thrust device (49) possesses a u-shape tapered sliding member (43) supported in the housing and is movable in a radial direction relative to the armature supported against the shaft, so that the axial force can be applied to the armature shaft in the direction of the support bearing by moving the tapered sliding member (43).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 11/18/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Cagnon fails to teach or suggest a shaft having a pair of roller bearings located on the second end of the shaft.

5. However, the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a pair of roller bearings located on the end of the shaft) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are

not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen B Addison whose telephone number is 703-306-5855. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 703-308-1317. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3431 for regular communications and 703-305-3431 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



JOSEPH WAIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

KBA
February 5, 2003